





# Junior Nature School Museum

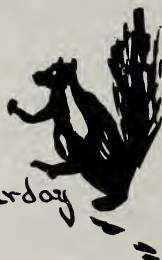
Beginning June 23  
Ending August 3



9:00-10:30-Grades 1-3

10:00-12:00 Grades 4-9

Every week-day except Saturday  
Museum & Field Trips




Monday  Trees

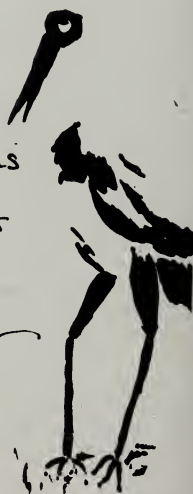
Tuesday - Birds

Wednesday - Mammals

Thursday  Flowers

Friday  Miscellaneous

Come and learn about  
Nature - with a  
Ranger Naturalist  
as your guide

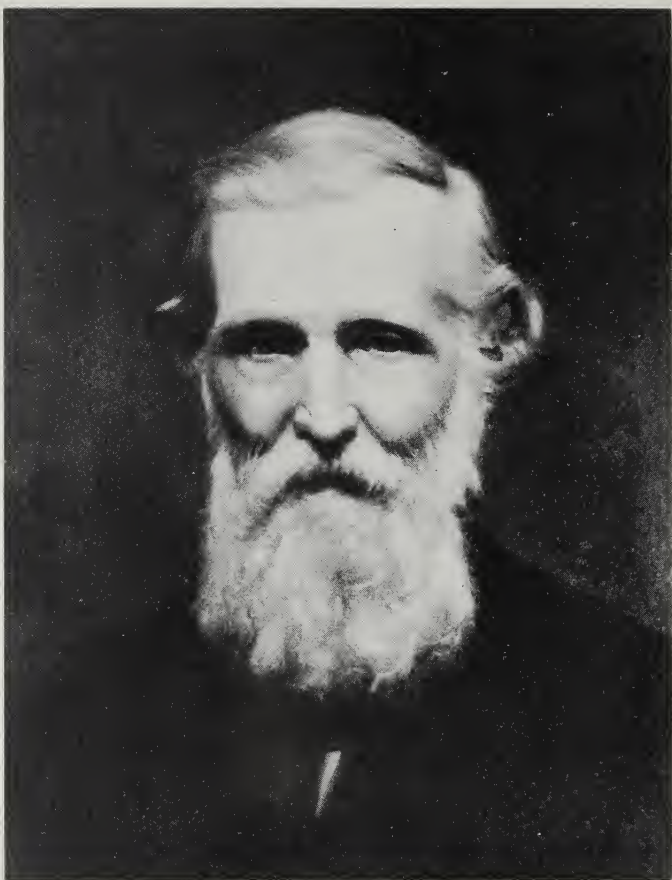




# Guide to YOSEMITE MEADOWS TRAILS



SPECIAL ISSUE  
YOSEMITE NATURE NOTES



John Muir  
*(from a painting by Herbert A. Collins)*

y o s e m i t e

NATURE NOTES

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History Association in Yosemite National Park.*

Vol. XXXIX No. 8

Guide to

TUOLUMNE

MEADOWS

TRAILS

ALLAN SHIELDS  
RANGER-NATURALIST



IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

# CONTENTS

Acknowledgements .....	170
Foreword .....	171
An Invitation to Hike .....	172
Approaches to Hiking .....	173
Brief History of Guided Hikes .....	174
Recommended Equipment .....	175
Cautions .....	176
How You Can Help .....	177
To Begin: Walks .....	178
Graded Hiking Program .....	180
I    Lembert Dome .....	181
II   Dog Lake .....	183
III  Elizabeth Lake .....	184
IV   Cathedral Lake and Upper Cathedral Lake .....	185
V    Gaylor Lakes and Vicinity .....	187
VI   Mono Pass and Historic Golden Crown Mines .....	189
VII  Young Lakes .....	190
VIII Mt. Hoffman .....	191
IX   Waterwheel Falls and Glen Aulin .....	192
X    Vogelsang Pass and High Sierra Camp .....	194
XI   Clouds Rest .....	195
XII  Mt. Dana .....	196
List of Hikes, Walks, and Caravans in Tuolumne Meadows .....	199
Bibliography of General References .....	201
Recommended Works on Hiking in the High Sierra .....	204
Animals and Plants .....	205
A Check-List of Birds-1959 .....	207



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Tuolumne Meadows from Lembert Dome

—Anderson, NPS





## FOREWORD

by

Carl W. Sharsmith

Ranger-Naturalist

The visitor in Tuolumne Meadows who is unfamiliar with the region and who at the same time wants to explore for himself some of its beautiful and expansive reaches has, at the outset, numerous questions in mind. He (or she!) is rightfully aware that a wealth of interest and scenic charm lies hidden in the landscape but, he asks, "Which direction shall I go?" "How far is it?" "How long will it take?" "Is it steep?" "What if I don't know much about hiking?" These and numerous other questions this booklet tries to answer. It has been written by one who is thoroughly familiar not only with the terrain but also with the needs of those eager for first-hand acquaintance with it. The choice of hikes it recommends is excellent and the graded series a happy thought.

As its author indicates within its pages this program of self-guided hikes is intended as a supplement to the hikes regularly scheduled and guided by the ranger-naturalists. For those unacquainted with the area, obviously it cannot with advantage be a substitute for these. Nothing, not even the best of printed instructions and information, can replace a living mentor, on the spot, who knows what he sees, knows what perhaps you fail to see, and who is able to inform you about them in a way that will interest you keenly. The great popularity of the naturalist conducted hikes over the years is good evidence of this. Intersperse your activities with some of these, and your own hikes will be enriched.

Depending upon your length of stay all the hikes described in this self-guided program might easily be accomplished by you in a single season. Even should you do so you will realize you have but just begun your explorations. You, however, will have provided yourself with a sound background of practical experience and of knowledge. So begin! The sparkling beauty of Tuolumne's meadows, forests, streams, lakes and mountains beckons you to come, see and enjoy.

## AN INVITATION TO HIKE

For almost 100 years hikers have recognized Tuolumne Meadows as an ideal place in which to experience all the pleasures, satisfactions, and values of moving closer to nature. The unity of one's very being seems to occur as if by magic through the simple device of presenting oneself to the region.

Though it is impossible to convey the full meaning of this common feeling, it can be said that there are many occasions when raw and lovely nature fairly forces herself on us. Glacial polish begs us to feel the shining, smooth surfaces of granite with our fingers. Flowers require us to hold up their heads for a closer inspection. Odors delight us—pennyroyal mint, the balsam of red fir, the strong savor of wild onions, the sweet scent of a broken leaf of laborador tea bush — all convey sensations so inherently exciting that we want to share them with others. The tastes of the clear, cold waters

of high mountain streams and lakes, of the needles of lodgepole pine or whitebark pine, of the seed of the whitebark pine, flavorful to the Clark's nutcracker, Sierra chickaree and human beings alike, help us to feel and learn the keen varieties of nature. The sounds of wind and water, the call of Clark's nutcracker, the chatter of chickaree, the whistle of Belding ground squirrel and the clop-clop of some camper chopping wood are all easily forgotten when we leave, but quicken our senses when we return to them.

Visions of rugged mountain formations delight us. The Range of Light (the Sierra Nevada) creates textures and colors that artists constantly find inspiring. A standing dead tree displays a spectrum of grays, browns, reds and blacks; the Clark Range exhibits its own palette of colors. Summer thunderstorms, nature's overtures to the next seasonal act, compel our attention to the parts of the whole display which in retrospect we put together as a unity and make the lesson a part of ourselves.

Just as a camera must be selective, and can, at its realistic best, simply create a potential and vicarious experience, language such as this can do no more than invite participation in the direct experience. That alone can effect the conviction of unity. It is required of us that we get out of our cars, out of the campground, even, at times, off the trail, before we can truly and humbly present ourselves to Nature. We need to hike!

Western White Pine



## APPROACHES TO HIKING

There are several ways to approach a hike. Mountaineers recommend different attitudes to strike. It is largely a matter of objectives and values.

For example, the geological surveyor needs to ascend mountains, thoughtful of getting his job done. Carrying equipment to the summit of Mt. Conness or Mt. Hoffman requires a unique route, timing and physical training that most people do not desire.

Further, the endurance hiker takes pleasure in ascending and descending as much terrain as possible in the shortest time, if we are to believe his conversations. Let us denominate this person "the austerity hiker," reminding ourselves what may be missing in his approach.

Rock climbers are a sort apart from our considerations. In addition, considerable mountaineering skill is required of the fisherman, that single-minded devotee of sport, of the cross-country skier, the mule string driver, and the fire fighter.

For the hiker who wants to know in some detail the birds he hears and sees, the flowers nodding to him in the meadows and on rocky slopes, the meanings of the geological signs on the rocks and mountain formation, the human history of the region, the character and marks of the trees, shrubs, and other plants—for this person John Muir set the pattern. Muir's habit was to walk up mountains, observing very closely whatever chanced to stop him—a new flower, a rock formation, a bird—and to give little thought to his prearranged schedule. Though some hikes require fairly careful planning, all of these trips described here need only a rough time-table, and a mini-

mum of physical conditioning. Since Tuolumne Meadows lie at 8585 feet (at the Campground Ranger Station), a day or two of adjustment will usually be required. After that, the graded hikes themselves will provide all the physical conditioning necessary. The primary principle that is recommended to follow is to **take plenty of time** for each trip. Rest when you feel like it. Stop to look and listen. Saunter when you can. In this spirit, your hiking will prove most rewarding.

More specifically, what are some reasons for hiking?

Not necessarily in order of importance, these are some reasons which people give for hiking:

**Recreation** - People enjoy being outdoors, with all of the excitement of novelty, hazards, and simple physical well-being which accompany the experience. A few recognize that the outdoors exertion at high altitude actually helps in recreating their personhood, helps them to find depths of feeling, emotion, contentment, and inspiration not conveyed by the term recreation alone.

**Knowledge** - Being on the spot, seeing the evidence before one brings the perennial thrill of original discovery to each searcher alone, no matter how many times previously the discovery has been made. On hikes we can learn the terrain, gain an intimate association with the mountains and natural features in general, including plants, trees, and animals. A knowledge of the human history can greatly enhance the simpler pleasures of hiking.

**Appreciation for conservation**  
The natural features of the region



mutely teach their own eloquent lessons in balance of forces to those ready to learn. The keen specialization of nature, the inter-relationships among plants, birds, and insects can be studied casually or profoundly with profit by the discerning hiker.

**Esthetic delights** - To relearn the sensitivities that may have been unused recurs to many as an annual revelation. Sounds, sights, odors, feelings, and other sense stimuli all seem heightened by the mountain atmosphere. It is as though, by

sloughing our overcivilizing encrustations, we have suddenly become hyperaesthetic. And since we cannot fill our eyes to satiety, we return often to seek again, and possibly to enlarge the aesthetic delights of former experiences.

**Getting away** - Some have given this reason for going to the mountains. This negative approach seems warped, if really held. Rather, we may take our positive cue from Muir who felt that going to the mountains was going home.

### BRIEF HISTORY OF GUIDED HIKES IN TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

John Muir first hiked, scrambled, and climbed around this elevated country in the year 1869, and continued making his insightful studies of nature until the year of his death by pneumonia in 1914. Before him, the Yosemite (Miwok) Indians, and others, frequently hiked in the region for reasons of commerce, cultural exchange, and subsistence. These people were greatly skilled in getting about in the mountains, often chasing game to mountain tablelands and summits, where animals would be ambushed by stationed hunters. Arrowheads, found throughout the high mountains, attest to the Indian's wandering.

For nearly thirty years, Tuolumne Meadows has held an enviable reputation for its hiking program conducted under the direction of ranger-naturalists who have been trained in mountaineering, the natural sciences, and the history of the region. Ranger-naturalist Carl Sharsmith, without doubt, has been the most important single person responsible for the development of these

activities. Under his spirited direction, the program has grown to include more than 50 all-day hikes and 20 half-day hikes, nature walks, bird walks, and many specialized activities.

Several main principles have served the naturalists in this region. Among them are these: 1) that the uninitiated, with some guidance, can quickly learn to find his way around in the mountains, and can learn to conduct himself in such a manner that he will succeed in doing with pleasure what he may only fearfully avoid, if left to his own devices; 2) that the main object, apart from accurate and meaningful interpretation of the numerous facts connected with the area, is to help the novice to become independent and secure in the mountains; 3) that the means to achieve these objectives are, most directly, the campfire programs that have inspired so many to undertake some aspects of the scheduled events, and especially the all-day hikes and others, which infuse the participant with the zeal



continue to discover for himself the great riches that lie about one in Tuolumne.

John Muir's admonition still sounds the keynote of the naturalist conducted trips:

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows to trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

This booklet is intended for that Park visitor who is unfamiliar with the region, probably inexperienced hiking, but who is willing to expend a little thought and energy to turner to himself some of the peace and energy of the mountains. It is a

supplement to the regularly scheduled guided hikes and is in no sense a substitution for them. Few of us are so able in learning a complicated skill that we can afford to do without a mentor entirely. The truly independent hiker will want to do both: to take conducted trips, and to follow this program independently.

It is our hope that by grading the hikes, the visitor will be enabled to start with comparatively simple but infinitely rewarding trips, and gradually advance to the more strenuous and trying hikes when he will have achieved a solid orientation in the region and confidence in his ability to hike. He can then graduate to complete independence in the Park.

## RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

Hiking equipment is so various, and tastes so condition choice, that only general recommendations are included.

**Footwear** - Two pairs of socks, one thin, one heavy, are advisable to prevent blisters and sores. Socks with holes or darned spots will cause chafers. Stout shoes with rubber or composition soles are a necessity on the granite slopes which abound in the region. They will cling safely to weathered granite slopes. Leather shoes are dangerous.

**Clothing** - During the day, the radiant sunshine will warm one, except on higher elevations where the wind blows daily. Consequently, it is advisable to carry a jacket when ascending a mountain. A simple back pack makes it convenient to carry extra articles of clothing, camera, lunch, etc., but, more im-

portant, it enables one to keep his hands free when climbing.

**Food** - Eat lightly when hiking, especially when going out on less than an overnight trip. It is a good idea, if going very far, to carry a modest amount of extra food, in case of emergency. Most hikers feel water from streams is safe for drinking. Public health officials do not agree! They declare all natural waters suspect and recommend treatment before consumption.

**Literature** - A great deal of literature is available for purchase at modest, non-profit prices through the Museum in Yosemite Valley, and at outlying stations. Especially valuable are the *Yosemite Nature Notes* issues which are devoted to special features. For a start, select those on coniferous trees, wildflowers, geol-

ogy, and the Yosemite Indians. More extensive works on these and other topics are listed on p. 201 where a bibliography is provided.

**Binoculars** - A convenience at first, this piece of equipment can greatly enhance your trips, especially when viewing birds.

**Topographic map** - A map of the Yosemite region can be purchased at any ranger-naturalist station. This map is indispensable for accurate

estimates of distances, climbs, etc. and for identification of lakes, mountains, canyons, etc. Any ranger-naturalist will be glad to help you to learn to read it. Other maps are also available, as well as trail guides.

The rarified atmosphere in Tuolumne Meadows makes sunburn protection advisable. Early in the season, June and July, mosquitoes are common and hungry, particularly near lakes and snowfields.

## SOME CAUTIONS RAISED AND FEARS ALLAYED

**Altitude hiking and conditioning recommendations** - People in normal health have nothing to fear about beginning the graded program after being in the region for a couple of days. If in doubt, consult your physician. Most of the hikes require climbing, and that means exertion. After the initial stiffness gained by the inactive person taking the Lembert Dome and Dog Lake hikes, the additional hiking will actually help limber the muscles. Headaches are normal at the beginning of one's stay at high altitudes. They should disappear, without medication, in a couple of days.

**Snakes** - In Tuolumne Meadows region there is one snake, the garter (16, p. 37).<sup>\*</sup> There are no rattlesnakes, or seriously poisonous insects.

**Children** - Generally speaking, children suffer mildly the same difficulties as adults, but evidence discomfort in different ways. After conditioning, there is no reason why

children of 5 years or older should not enjoy hiking with their parents. A child is lost when he cannot find the way back. Not knowing exactly where you are does not mean that you are lost. We rarely know exactly where we are. Instruct your children that when they cannot find the way "home", that they should remain in one place and wait for help. Of course, any suspected case of lost child (or adult) should be reported to the District Ranger at once.

**Bears** - The black bear 12, p. 8 is a wild animal and is dangerous to humans. Do not feed them. Do not store food in tents or sleeping bags. Bears have been known to rip open cans to obtain food. Hang food high between trees. Bears are usually frightened away if an **empty tin can is tossed toward them**. Bears may be dangerous, if provoked.

**Illness, injury, and other emergencies** - Report immediately such difficulties to the District Ranger,

<sup>\*</sup>See Bibliography on p. 201. Number refers to corresponding work on the list.

ny of the other rangers. Do not attempt to remove a person alone. Send for help, or go get it.

**On getting lost** - Few persons find themselves lost if they have learned the region gradually. Anyone who has followed the program described here will have to try hard to get lost. However, it is possible to become confused and disoriented. When leaving for a hike, always let someone know where you are going, how you will go and return, and when. Then, if you really feel lost, stay where you are. Help will come. By staying on the trail, you greatly minimize the chances of getting confused, and enhance the possibilities of being found.

**Fires** - Except in the campground, you are required to obtain a permit to build a fire in the region. Permits are free, and are quickly delivered at all ranger stations. Consult any ranger regarding regulations.

In places where campfires are permitted, be careful, at higher elevations especially, to keep fires small, and see that they are completely out when leaving. Roots of the whitebark pine may smolder for weeks, killing 500 years of growth. Be careful. Build your fire a considerable distance (15 feet) from stumps. See that no exposed roots are near. **Use old fire places.**

**Firewood** - Park policy states that visitors may burn **only** dead wood

that is **down**. Standing dead trees are to be preserved as natural features of the region, no matter how strongly you are antagonized by dead trees that stay upright. There is plenty of wood that is down. That others may share it after you, build small fires, and use only as much wood as you need.

**Trash disposal** - The best policy regarding trash is the general rule, "Don't leave the area as clean as you found it — leave it cleaner." Burn all trash and garbage, flatten cans, after burning them out, then carry them out to the nearest trash can. In this way, the Sierra Nevada can be kept in wilderness condition. You will find what looks like trash dumps at some camps. Increased high country travel makes such dumps out of date and unsightly. Do not contribute to their accumulations.

**General Cautions** - Sand or gravel over granite is very slippery.

When traveling up steep slopes, be extra careful not to dislodge rocks. The dangers are not to you, but to your companions below.

Never throw or roll rocks down steep slopes or over cliffs. Someone is probably below, even though you do not see them. Also, you may precipitate a rock slide in loose talus.

Do not attempt to descend steep granite slopes.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Report fires sighted.
2. Report identification of any unusual nature observations (mountain lion (12, p. 94), Sierra Nevada big horn sheep (12, p. 100), wolverine

(12, p. 91), Mt. Lyell salamander (16, p. 7), etc.).

3. Leave the area clean.
4. Teach another to hike sensibly.



## TO BEGIN: WALKS

All of the trips that are described are classified as hikes. This means that there will be climbing and descending involved, often in rough terrain, over rocks and trees, but each of these follows a trail. Differences in time of year will alter conditions. Early in July, the ground is almost always wet with melting snows, and run-off water from winter storms. Later in August, conditions are drier. Occasional thunder showers may create minor difficulties. (Shoes should be impregnated with some water repellent material.) Thus, a hike is demanding of energy and care. Walks, on the other hand, require far less energy and little, if any, advance preparation. For some interesting walks in the region, consult the Ranger on duty at the Campground Ranger Station, or refer to any reliable map of the area. For example, you might want to take one of the following walks:

**1. Soda Spring, Tuolumne Meadows, Parson's Lodge and Sierra Club Property.**

**Directions:**

**To Walk,** start from the campground ranger station, go directly across the road, through the trees and follow the river west, where you will come to an old road bridge somewhat over a mile downstream. Or approximately parallel the river course by walking through the several meadows and small forests that precede the large meadow, continuing until you reach the bridge. Cross the bridge, and walk straight up the slope to the enclosure which protects the Soda Spring. Parson's Lodge lies near at hand, the large stone building, and the caretaker in the McCauley cabin will be glad to answer any questions you may have regarding the Sierra Club. Return along opposite side of river until you reach the main road.

The Tuolumne River flows near Lambert Dome as it winds its way through the Meadows.

—McCrory, NPS





**To drive,** leave the campground ranger station, drive across the Tuolumne River Bridge, turn left at first oiled road, and continue back over a mile to the parking lot. Follow above directions from the bridge.

**2. Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River.** Simply walk parallel to the river on the south side, following the river either up or down stream, replacing your steps on return. During low water, wade across and return on opposite side.

**3. Dana Meadows.** Drive to Tioga Pass, parking either on the right or left before leaving the Park. Walk out into the meadows toward Mt. Dana (south side), exploring multiple

glacial moraines, ponds, forests, and meadows. You might want to climb part way up on the lower slopes of the mountain for unusual wildflowers and birds.

**4. Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Lodge.**

**To drive,** cross Tuolumne River Bridge, turning right at first oiled road, drive back one mile.

**To walk,** cross Tuolumne River Bridge, cut through meadow on trail to the right, following it through meadows and forests until you reach the Lodge. By closely paralleling either the Dana Fork of the river, or the oiled road you will reach the Lodge.

## HIKE CLASSIFICATION

(approximate figures only)

All of the following hikes are graded on a five point scale, as follows: (mileage given means **round trip**)

1. Easy half-day (or less) - Involves a climb of 1000 feet or less; under five miles.
2. Easy all-day - Involves a climb of 1500 feet or less; under 8 miles.
3. Moderate all-day - Involves a climb of 2000 feet or less; under 10 miles.

4. Strenuous all-day - Involves steep climbs of 2000-2500 feet; 10 to 12 miles.

5. Very strenuous all-day - Involves steep climbs, descents, of 2000 to 3000 feet; 10 to 15 miles.

Disagreements abound over the distinctions of these grades, but they appear to be sufficiently helpful to use as guides. Remember, they refer to the effect on a person who is used to the region and fairly well conditioned physically.

## THE HIKING PROGRAM

## General Information:

1. Since the region covered by these hikes is adequately detailed in other publications readily available, little additional detail is included in these descriptions other than outstanding features most likely to be encountered. Instead there are included numbered references to particular works by page in the bibliography. For example, since the Clark's nutcracker (crow) will probably be heard and seen on the sides of Lembert Dome and around Gaylor Lakes his name is mentioned, followed by the number 1, which refers to the *Yosemite Nature Notes* entitled "Birds of Yosemite". The page reference in this issue then follows, thus: (1, p. 115).

2. The point of origin and return is

always the Campground Ranger Station at the entrance to the Tuolumne Meadows campground.

3. Mileage figures are always given as **round trip**. Short side trips sometimes mentioned are additional.

4. It is urged that your hike be made more complete by doing some exploring in the vicinity of your objective. Though it may be unnecessary to say so, you should not hesitate to leave the trail for short distances. if something intrigues you. For example, while on top of Lembert Dome, you may want to walk down to the large ledge toward the river bridge, or you may want to walk out on the back shoulder of the Dome to see the erratic slope before descending through the forest.

The Campground Ranger Station is the beginning point for all hikes described herein.

—McCrory, NPS



# I. LEMBERT DOME (1-easy half day, 900 ft., 4 miles).

The summit of this Tuolumne landmark provides a commanding view of practically the entire Tuolumne Meadows region, including Mt. Lyell, the highest park prominence (13,114 ft.) and Mt. Dana, the second highest (13,053 ft.). On this hike it is possible to find all seven of the cone bearing peaks (3)\* of the region by making the circle trip (see below).

Lembert Dome is named for John Baptist Lembert who homesteaded in Tuolumne in 1885, raising Angora goats between 1889-90, finally patenting his land in 1895. He was murdered in his cabin on Cascade Creek in 1896; his property passed to his brother, who then sold it to the McCauley brothers in 1898. Lembert's property included the Sierra Club property and the Soda Spring. The Sierra Club purchased the property in 1912 and it is still (1960) in their title.

**Directions:** Find the trail by crossing the bridge of the Tuolumne River, continue to the base of the

dome, following through the forest or across the meadow, keeping to your left around the dome base until you reach the small, building which houses a radio transmitter. The main trail begins immediately behind the building. After you have climbed about 2/3 of the ridge, you will reach a trail division. Take the right hand trail, following it to the back shoulder of the dome. When you reach the top of the back shoulder, turn right and follow the natural contour toward the summit (southerly). Though there is no trail from the shoulder, there are obvious easy routes up the granite slope to the summit. Look for the register to sign. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DESCEND BY WAY OF THE SLOPE OF THE DOME. IT IS VERY DANGEROUS.**

To return, simply retrace steps. Better still, make a circle trip by returning to the back shoulder and turning right down through the forest, staying close enough to the Dome to keep your bearings. By following the dome base down through the forest, you will come out on the main road. Turn right and walk back

commanding view of Yosemite's high country can be obtained from the top of Lembert Dome.

—McCrary, NPS



\*See Bibliography on p. 201. Number refers to corresponding work on the list.



Sierra junipers seem to prefer solitude and seek out the desolate wind-swept granite slopes. This one grows on Lembert Dome.

—McCrory, NPS



to point of origin, or cross road into forest and parallel the road.

**Special features:** Only seven cone-bearing trees occur in Tuolumne. By making the circle trip, you may find all seven. On the way up, watch for the lodgepole pine (3, p. 21), mountain hemlock (3, p. 34) and the western white pine (3, p. 16). On the lower slopes of the dome, after starting out on the granite, watch for a few whitebark pines (3, p. 19). On the way down, look for California red fir (3, p. 29), Jeffrey pine (3, p. 10), and Sierra juniper (3, p. 44).

Lembert Dome abounds in glacial evidence. Erratic boulders are evi-

dent on the back shoulder in profusion. Look and feel under the rocks for glacial polish that has weathered very little. **Do not move rocks.** From the summit one can look over on many square miles of scoured granite, and understand why Muir referred to Tuolumne as an area of maximum glaciation (6, 21, 39).

Birds most commonly encountered include the Clark's nutcracker (1, p. 115), mountain chickadee (1, p. 115), and the Oregon junco (1, p. 137).

A topographic map will be indispensable in naming the major peaks. A compass is helpful in orienting the map, but not necessary.



Glacial polish and erratic boulders show that in past ages, Lembert Dome was overridden by glaciers.

—McCrory,



## II. DOG LAKE (1-easy half day, 4000 ft., 3 miles).

This large lake is surrounded by forest. From its outlet and south side one can see Mt. Dana. On the trail up the ridge before the lake, by looking back at appropriate spots one finds unusual views of the Cathedral Range — Cathedral Peak, Fairview Dome, and the Bishop's Backbone. On warm days, a swim will be welcome refreshment after the climb. You may want to fish, for this lake, like most in the region, is planted. Dog Lake contains brook trout (5, p. 1).

**Directions:** Walk across the Tuolumne River Bridge. By stopping in the center and looking upstream you may see the confluence of the Lyell Fork and Dana Fork of the river. You will be looking up Lyell Fork, primarily. Cross the bridge and continue to first road on left. Almost immediately you will see a dirt road blocked by a chain between log posts. Behind is a sign reading "Driving Across Meadows Prohibited." Pass the posts and follow this dirt

road. Shortly you will find another sign reading "Dog Lake and Young Lake." Continue on this road across a meadow, a granite slab, and into the forest. On a tree will be a small aluminum sign pointing **right** to the trail. Simply follow this well worn trail to the lake. Signs near the lake will prevent your following the Young Lake trail.

To return, retrace your route up. As an alternative, walk around the lake on the southerly side about half way, and you will find a fairly well-defined trail which will take you down to the main road. Cross the main road, walking through the forest until you come to the small road that runs to the Tuolumne Lodge. When you find this road, turn right and follow it back to the point of origin. The distance from the lake to the main road is one mile.

**Special features:** Trees: Though you will encounter mostly lodgepole pine (3, p. 21) it is possible to find mountain hemlock (3, p. 34) on your way up the ridge, as well as western white pine (3, p. 16). On the circle return trip watch for a few

Mts. Dana and Gibbs dominate the skyline in this view from Dog Lake.

—Anderson, NPS



California red fir (3, p. 29) off the trail.

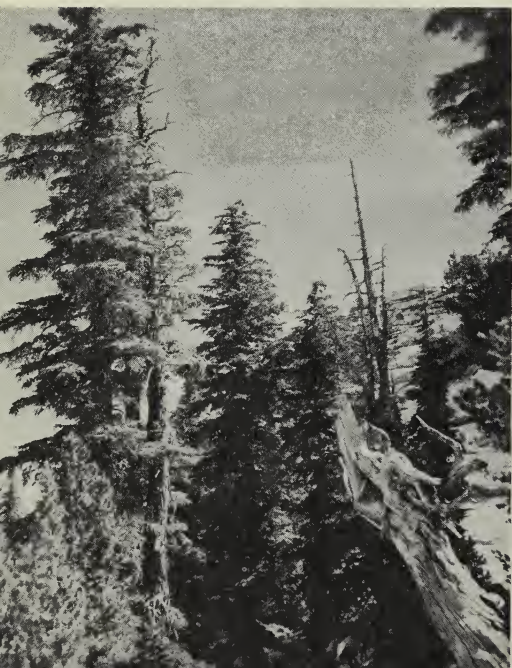
Several meadows will be encountered near the lake. Here myriad wildflowers will beg identification, and never possession. Of course, it is against park policy to pick any of them. In season watch for wild carrot, red heather in the gravel slopes, especially, in the wet spots, and Mariposa lily.

At the lake, you may see California gulls and other birds mentioned in the Lembert Dome hike. Listen for the raucous cry of Clark's nutcracker, especially when climbing the ridge by Lembert Dome.

The "T" blazes on the trees on your return trip were placed there by the Army about 50 years ago, when part of their function was to patrol this back country to keep out sheepherders and cattlemen, as well as to establish trails.

Mountain Hemlock

—McCrary, NPS



### III. ELIZABETH LAKE (1-easy half day, 1000 ft., 5 miles).

This alpine lake is set in a basin with a backdrop of the rugged splendor of Unicorn Peak, Johnson Ridge, and Johnson Peak. Around the edge of the lake are tundra-like meadows and some large clusters of lodgepole pine (3, 21). The contrasts, in appropriate seasons, of the snow, pinkish granites, green forests and meadows, and the crystal blue High Sierra sky make this accessible lake one of the choicest spots to visit early in your hiking program.

**Directions:** Walk back on the campground road to the first turn to the right, and follow the aluminum "T" signs on the trees about .2 of a mile where you will find a "T" with an arrow on a tree on the left marking the start of the trail up through the campsites. A few dozen yards off trail will bring you out on to a road and road material mixing place. Walk straight up hill across this open area where you will find the trail starts among the trees once more. (A metal sign marks the spot). From here on there will be no confusing the trail. Somewhat steep at first, the trail will flatten to a gradual climb all the way to the lake.

Possible for an all-day easy hike, it is listed as a half day hike, thinking you will start up at 8:00 or 8:30, and return in time for a late lunch at 1:00 p.m. By walking around the lake, or by climbing part way up Unicorn, you will find a full day is more comfortable. You will not want to leave it, once you arrive, so carry some food in case you wish to remain.

**Special Features:** Most of the cone-bearing trees of the region occur on this hike (see Lembert Dome, **Special Features**, p. 182). Johnson Peak is



largely composed of one of the three main kinds of granite of Tuolumne, which takes its name from this peak. A pinkish, finely grained granite, largely homogeneous, with occasional feldspar crystals, it differs markedly from the more common Cathedral Peak granite, or Half Dome granite. (See geology exhibit in campground ranger station).

On the side of the lake near Unicorn Peak you will find one of the largest patches of sphagnum moss in the park.

You may notice the "T" blazes on the trees as you ascend. It is said that these stand for "tree" so that the recruits in the army patrolling the area would know they were trees! Actually, they do mark the old army patrol trails, this one continuing on up over the ridge (obscured in places) toward Nelson Lake.

Elizabeth Lake was named for a daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Samuel E. Simmons, of Sacramento.

#### IV. CATHEDRAL LAKE AND UPPER CATHEDRAL LAKE (2-easy all-day hike, 1200 ft., 6 miles).

Upper Cathedral Lake lies 500 feet above Cathedral Lake, which is situated somewhat below Cathedral Peak itself, and at the base of Eagle Peak (unofficial title). Both lakes empty their contents down a cascade (in season) which forms as a stream, flowing eventually into Lake Tenaya, thence down Tenaya Canyon, Slide Falls, Py-we-ack Fall, Mirror Lake, Merced River, and eventually ending in Lake Yosemite. It is interesting to note that Lake Yosemite is not in Yosemite, but in Merced County, and that Lake Merced is not in Merced County, but in Yosemite! At first, this is confusing.

Both lakes have rugged glaciated settings. From either, one can see Cathedral Peak, Echo Peaks, Echo Ridge, the Bishop's Backbone and Eagle Peak. From the outlet of Ca-

Fishing is better in lakes of the back country.

—Anderson, NPS



thedral Lake you can see Polly Dome. It is recommended that you eat lunch here at the outlet of lower Cathedral Lake, and that after lunch you take the trail to Upper Cathedral Lake, possibly continuing on to Cathedral Pass where you may view the Vogelsang area, and Columbia Finger.

**Directions:** This ancient Indian trail, now known as the Sunrise Trail, can be reached by driving toward Lake Tenaya 1.5 miles. Drive along the main road across two streams, the first called Elizabeth Creek, the second Budd Creek, after their respective lake sources. Immediately past Budd Creek is a turnoff and parking area on your left. Find the trail out of the parking area. Soon it will cross at right angle to the trail from Tenaya Lake to Tuolumne Meadows. From this point on, there is no confusion point on the trail. Continue up switch backs, around the base of Cathedral Peak (Fairview Dome on your right). After rounding the base of Cathedral Peak, the trail starts down and parallels Cathedral Peak. Shortly after the trail starts up

again, you will find (look sharp) a sign directing you to the right to Cathedral Lake (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile). Take this trail. On returning to this point after lunch, continue up the trail to Upper Cathedral Lake, which is off the trail about two hundred yards on your right near the top of the pass. To return, retrace the main trail.

**Special Features:** Probably the most dramatic feature of this region is the sharp contrast between the heavily glaciated granite domes behind Cathedral Lake and the unglaciated peaks of Cathedral and Echo Peaks and Ridge. Of equal interest will be the meadow behind the head of Cathedral Lake, where you can see very clearly the glacial lakes becoming meadows. Streams meander all through this portion of the terrain, alive with the yellow-legged frog (16, p. 14). These frogs require two seasons to mature at this elevation, the growing season being too short for them to achieve full growth during one. Walk around the lake, noticing the development of meadow turf.

Cathedral Pass provides many panoramic views of Yosemite.  
The Clark Range Rises in the distance.

—Anderson, NPS





Yosemite's  
early glaciers  
were born in  
places such  
as this one  
above Gaylor  
Lakes.

—McCrary, NPS



## V. GAYLOR LAKES AND VICIN- ITY (2-easy all-day hike, 600 ft., 3 to 6 miles).

There are three Gaylor Lakes, lower, middle, and upper. In the same general basin occur two other lakes called Granite Lakes. By extending your hike by 3 miles it is possible to visit 4 of the 5 lakes. To do so would increase the difficulty, but the rewards are commensurate with the effort, as always. The Gaylor lakes occur in meadows, are all stocked with fish, and are located in a grand space-wasting arena of granite and metamorphic rock. Leaving a busy entrance station you will find yourself, within an hour, in a wild, primitive haven. Plan to spend the day exploring, while the man of the family may fish — successfully. From the entrance station to Middle Gaylor is a bare one mile.

**Directions:** Drive seven miles to Tioga Pass entrance station, parking on your left before the station house. At the parking lot you will find a sign indicating the fisherman's trail up over the ridge about 600 feet above the road. The pass is about

Wind blown lodgepole pine above  
Gaylor Lakes.

—McCrary, NPS



10,000 ft., the trail is steep (fish can wait) so take **plenty** of time ascending the ridge. It is your only major climb, and is about one-half mile in length. Follow the trail over the ridge and down to the Middle Gaylor Lake. Before descending, notice the lake to your left down the meadow. This is Lower Gaylor Lake. Upper Gaylor lies around Pilot Peak, the red prominence just above you to your right as you face Middle Gaylor. To see the lovely Granite Lakes, you will have to walk across the wide meadow to the great granite curved cliff directly in front of you in the distance. To return, retrace your steps.

**Special Features:** Whitebark pine trees become evident very soon up the trail (3, p. 19). Learn to identify this fine high altitude citizen. As you reach the top of the ridge, walk to the obvious division between the grey granites and the reddish metamorphic rock of the region. Look ahead at the granite ridge and, reversing your view, back at the range in the distance, where you will be able to make out the dividing line equally well through the region. Now notice the plants underfoot.

You will find a yellow-brown flowered Indian paint brush growing in profusion on the northerly side of the ridge during middle July and August. Descend to the Middle Gaylor. To the right is a grand talus slope (broken blocks of granite). Here you may be favored by a scolding from a small animal, if you wait a few minutes in the early morning or late afternoon, known by four names: rock rabbit, whistling hare, pika, or cony (12, p. 61). By keeping to your right around the first lake you will soon find an unsurpassed view of the Cathedral Range behind Tuolumne Meadows. Additionally you will notice myriad wild flowers in season.

For the person who wishes to extend his hike even farther than indicated, move right around Pilot Peak to Upper Gaylor. At the outlet, face the prominence slightly to your left, and you will see a rock cabin. Hike toward it, keeping the lake on your right. Move beyond the cabin to the pass summit and you will discover the original exploratory mine shafts and miners' buildings of the Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Mining Company (33).

Skyline from Middle Gaylor Lake





Golden Crown Mine  
cabins in Mono Pass,  
Mount Lewis at right.

—Hubbard, NPS



## VI. MONO PASS AND HISTORIC GOLDEN CROWN MINES (3-moderate all-day hike, 1200 ft., 10 miles).

On this trip you will travel an ancient Indian and explorer trail. The Indians brought pine nuts, obsidian for making arrowheads, and other articles of subsistence over from Mono Lake to the western slope of the Sierra. Along the trail you will find old miners' cabins, and at the site of the Golden Crown Mines you will find several mines, as well as a large cluster of weathered cabins. From the Mono Pass area you will be able to see part of Mono Lake and the desert-like expanse running to the White Mountains in Nevada. The Sardine Lakes, a short way over the pass, invite fishing.

**Directions:** Drive 5.6 miles up the road toward Tioga Pass. A parking area will be on the right of the road. By walking straight on down the road you will find the start of the

trail leading to Mono and Parker Passes. Very soon it crosses the Dana Fork of the Tuolumne River. Early in the season, it may be necessary to remove socks, shoes, and possibly more, to wade across. Follow the trail and trail signs up to Mono Pass. The trail parallels Mt. Gibbs' base (on your left as you start). Before the hike is completed you should have a new appreciation for the size of Gibbs and other mountains! To return, retrace your up route. The descent is gradual.

**Special Features:** You may want to read "Indians of Yosemite" before making this trip, so numerous are the historical meanings on the way.

Outstanding features are the northerly facing grey cliffs of Kuna Crest (on your right as you go up the trail), clearly exhibiting several cirques glacial polish and erratics, as seen on Lembert Dome. Contrast the granite of Kuna Crest with the red metamorphic quartzite of Gibbs,



Dana, Lewis, and other prominences on the higher eastern portion of the Sierra.

Try to find evidences of avalanches in the past as you go along the trail, especially the first half.

In the rock piles (talus slopes) along Gibbs stop and wait for the Yosemite pika (12, p. 61) to present himself. Visit the cabins as you discover them, noticing the different building methods used (33). The Golden Crown Mine cabins are located at the pass; walk **right** from the trail and toward the ridge.

As you approach the pass itself, just before you go out to the clear, windswept region, you will find, on your left, one of the largest white-bark pines in the region (3, p. 19).

For further exploration, follow the trail over the pass into Bloody Canyon. It is worth your extra time to hike about one-half mile down to see a splendid view of the Mono Basin. On your way, notice the glacial polish in the metamorphic formations.

A really extended trip can be made by going up the ridge behind the Golden Crown Mines, bearing right, to Parker Pass. Follow the water course, or trail down to Spillway Lake and Creek. Here you will discover a fisherman's trail which leads back to Parker Pass-Mono Pass trail.

## VII. YOUNG LAKE (4-strenuous all-day, 1800 ft., 12 miles).

Young Lake is situated northeast of Ragged Peak, and at its base, half surrounded by lodgepole forest, half by talus slopes from the nearby ridges of granite. In addition to Young Lake, there are two other lakes above it well worth exploring. Fishing is good. Camping is permit-

ted, and you may want to pack in to spend a night or more. See the Ranger for a campfire permit. From Young Lake, Mt. Conness displays itself splendidly.

**Directions:** Follow the Dog Lake trail to the junction near Dog Lake (p. 183). Dog Lake makes a convenient and beautiful resting spot on the first leg of your trip and is only a short distance from the junction. At the junction, turn left onto the trail. There are a series of moraines to climb and descend, followed by Moraine Meadow just prior to reaching the base of Ragged Peak. After crossing this point, the trail drops down to intersect the one that comes up from the Glen Aulin trail (Tuolumne River). Follow around the base of Ragged Peak on the trail to the lake where you will find campsites.

To return, make a circle trip by taking the trail which joins the Glen Aulin trail. In other words, after leaving Young Lake, moving around the base of Ragged Peak, instead of following the trail back up to the point of land below Ragged Peak, turn right. The trail is definite all the way to the Glen Aulin "highway" where you turn left, and soon find yourself at the Sierra Club property. Though somewhat less varied, the route may be reversed by starting at the Sierra Club property on the Glen Aulin trail. The climb is the same, but easier to make along this trail.

**Special Features:** This entire trip presents a good opportunity to observe the effects, recent and long past, of the needleminer moth destruction of the lodgepole forests. Across Moraine Meadow you will travel through a new forest of young trees. Notice the many fallen trees of the old forest.

When you have ascended the

point below Ragged Peak, before descending, walk out far enough to enjoy the commanding view of the region.

There are two additional lakes above and east of Young Lake which are interesting to explore. The climb and distance however will add considerably to a one-day hike (see your topographic map.)

A rewarding and strenuous addition to your trip can be made by ascending, from Young Lake, to the saddle between Ragged Peak and the ridge just east of the Peak. Though the route is steep, the view of Mt. Conness, Roosevelt Lake (just west of the base of Conness), and back down on Young Lake make this worth undertaking. Follow one of the water courses down to the Dog Lake trail. They all cross it.

Roosevelt Lake is not feasible to attempt on a one-day trip. It involves a considerable descent and climb. However, on a two-day trip this would be one of the best choices for additional exploration.

**VIII. MT. HOFFMAN** (3-moderate all-day hike, 2100 ft., 8 miles).

This mountain is in the approximate center of the park, offering a grand view in all directions. On a sparkling clear day, Mt. Diablo, near Walnut Creek, California, has been sighted. It is not uncommon to see the coast range of mountains from this lofty place. Mt. Bullion, near Mariposa, Horse Ridge and Buena Vista crest southward, Mt. Lyell, Mt. Dana, Mt. Conness, and many other of the grander prominences are visible from the summit.

**Directions:** Take the old Tioga Road to the May Lake trail junction which is at the end of this section of the road. Park your car and follow the trail to May Lake. Be sure to



—Anderson, NPS

Mt. Hoffman from May Lake.

stop occasionally to look at the ever widening views of the region. Half Dome will come into view after a short rise. As you come up over the final rise on a level with May Lake, you will see a ridge extending to your left. It is worth the extra few minutes to walk out on this ridge to look down almost into the Yosemite Valley. From here it is possible to view the fire fall from Glacier Point.

Continue to May Lake. From the fire circle of the High Sierra Camp face Mt. Hoffman across the lake. Your route is mainly visible from here. The trail goes around the lake (southerly side), past a pump house, water storage tank, then turns left up the slope over three main ridges, then you will move along a fine meadow. The trail is fairly distinct, but



should you fail to find it, simply turn right at the end of the meadow and follow up the ridge that leads to the left hand large knob of the mountain, keeping left around the knob. This will bring you onto the tableland. Cross the tableland in the obvious direction toward the summit and pick the easiest route to the summit. To return, retrace your route.

**Special Features:** As you round the lake, near the pump house, you will cross a large pocket of metamorphic rock which seems out of place among the granites.

Blue (sooty) grouse (1, p. 94) are often observed on this mountain, especially during the initial rise over the three ridges and near the long meadow. Red shafted flickers (1, p. 105) occur here as well.

Watch for the Yosemite pica (12, p. 61) on the talus slopes.

Mountain coyote (12, p. 81) has been observed trotting along the high tableland on at least one occasion.

Apart from the commanding views, you will be surprised by the rugged character of the cirque behind (north) of the summit. Here is the

birthplace of Yosemite Falls.

The tableland is a splendid place to find and identify high altitude plants in season.

Take the little extra time necessary to climb out on one of the large knobs that rise above May Lake.

**IX. WATERWHEEL FALLS - Glen Aulin** (3-Glen Aulin, moderate all day, descend 800 ft., 12 miles. 5-Waterwheel Falls, very strenuous all day, descend 2000 ft., 17 miles).

(Note: **Mileage estimated from the parking lot of the Sierra Club property.**)

The main difficulty with this hike lies in the fact that the trip involves a considerable descent in the morning and a steep climb out in the afternoon. By allowing plenty of time for return, and picking a day that is not hot, the trip will be pleasant. All other hikes except Vogelsang Pass illustrate the useful rule: climb in the morning, descend in the afternoon whenever possible.

The trip down to Glen Aulin is rewarding during any season when Tuolumne is open, but the Waterwheel Falls are best visited during high water times. Consult with a



Waterwheel Falls  
—Anderson, NPS



anger regarding water conditions or the time of year.

The hike to Glen Aulin-Waterwheel Falls is along a well-traveled and well-marked trail that parallels the Tuolumne River during the entire extent of the route, crossing and recrossing the river on two occasions. Do not mistake the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp for Glen Aulin, which is a lovely, long, narrow forest-meadow lying approximately one-half mile below the High Sierra Camp.

During the trip to Glen Aulin, as you travel down the gorge, you cannot fail to notice Tuolumne Falls and the White Cascade. Following Glen Aulin, in this order, you will pass California Falls and Le Conte Falls before reaching the Waterwheel Falls themselves. A metal sign marks Waterwheel Falls.

**Directions:** Drive to the start of the Glen Aulin trail behind the Soda Spring roofless cabin, and up the slope, parking at the Sierra Club lot. Follow this well-marked trail down to either Glen Aulin (the Glen is not marked by signs) or to Waterwheel Falls, or both. Return by the same route.

**Special Features:** Since the trip begins in the Hudsonian life zone and descends to the Canadian and Upper Transition, you will want especially to notice the changes in the flora and fauna (2, 12, 17, 19, 24, 27, 36).

All along the route is ample evidence both of water erosion by the river and its tributaries, and of past glacial activity. The geological story will practically tell itself, but some

Unicorn and Cathedral Peaks are prominent landmarks in the Tuolumne Meadows area.

—Anderson, NPS



reading in either 6 or 20 will enhance your trip considerably.

Other special features have already been noted above. Seeing and especially hearing the tremendous power of the giant drop and tumble of the Tuolumne River at Waterwheel Falls can serve as adequate recommendation for the hike.

**X. VOGELSANG PASS and HIGH SIERRA CAMP** (5-very strenuous all-day, climb 1800 ft. to High Sierra Camp, 15 miles. For Vogelsang Pass, add 2 miles, and an additional climb of 400 ft.).

Both of these places leave little to be desired in the way of what one thinks a high mountain camp and pass should be. Situated over 10,000 ft. in the sky, the High Sierra Camp looks temporary enough not to mar the rugged beauty of its setting, but permanent enough to provide shelter. The pass itself offers one of the grandest views in the Park of the Clark Range, Bernice Lake, Mt. Florence, and neighboring peaks. Vogelsang Peak and Fletcher Peak form a golden setting for that gem, Vogelsang Lake. Some seasons of heavy snow fall may prevent this trip in part or whole until early in August or even later. Consult the Ranger regarding conditions.

**Directions:** Walk along the river road to the very back of the camp ground where the John Muir Trail begins. (Or begin at the Tuolumne High Sierra Camp, saving 2 miles hiking distance in the round trip.) Proceed about one mile to the Rafferty Creek trail junction, where you turn right up the slope. At first the trail is steep, but flattens soon to a gradual climb all the way to the High Sierra Camp. From the camp, find the trail to Vogelsang Lake and the Pass (marked by signs). Return

by the same trail, since alternate routes are considerably longer.

**Special Features:** As you climb higher and higher on the Rafferty Creek Trail, turn to see Mt. Dana, White Mountain, and other prominences coming into view. Lember Dome, that ubiquitous landmark of Tuolumne, will be in view for awhile. Rafferty, Vogelsang, and Fletcher Peaks are probably the most important mountains you will learn on this trip.

Lakes abound in this region, and a number of them are feasible to visit on even a one-day trip. Vogelsang, Evelyn, and Booth Lakes are especially near at hand, though you may want to hike to Vogelsang and Evelyn and simply look down into Booth Lake.

Golden eagles (1, p. 90) have been seen in this area, as well as mountain lions (12, p. 94). On the way from Vogelsang Lake to the Pass

On windswept slopes at high elevations, whitebark pines grow to heights of only 18 to 24 inches.

—McCrary, NPS







Largest exposed granite area in the park, the slope of Clouds Rest gently glides to the floor of Tenaya Canyon, 4500 feet below.

—McCrary, NPS

watch for some of the many marmots that live there (12, p. 66).

The High Sierra Camp will serve meals **only** if you have made advance reservations through the Tuolumne Lodge or some other branch of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company. Coffee or light refreshments do not require such reservations. In any event, visit the camp for its own sake.

**XI. CLOUDS REST** (5-very strenuous all-day, climb 1800 ft., 14 miles).

Seen from many vantage points

in the region, one can experience an unsurpassed 360° panorama of most of Yosemite National Park from its summit. This fact alone makes the trip worthy of the effort involved. From here one can also look down the face of Half Dome into Yosemite Valley, and easily sweep the full distance of Tenaya Canyon, the largest exposed granite area in the Park. The slope of Clouds Rest, extending into the bottom of Tenaya Canyon 4500 ft. below your vantage point, is said to be one of the largest continuous rock slopes in the world.

**Directions:** Drive eight miles to the

Granite domes surrounding Tenaya Lake make it one of the most photogenic spots in Yosemite.

—McCrary, NPS





outlet of Lake Tenaya. Walk across the outlet. Immediately on your right is the start of the Forsyth Trail. Rarely travelled by animals, the trail becomes obscure in some places during wet seasons, or times of lush growth. Follow the trail until it branches, one leading left and down toward Little Yosemite and Yosemite Valley, the other to the right to Clouds Rest Summit. Return by the same route.

**Special Features:** This trail travels through a wide variety of habitats for trees, plants, and animals. Such variety means that you may expect to find most of the conifers, a great number of birds, and most of the wild flowers of the higher region. From the wettest meadows, to the parched south-facing slope of Clouds Rest Mountain, there range forests and open slopes in between those extremes.

Very soon after starting along the Forsyth Trail, you will be able to see Tenaya Canyon, and are near it all day long. No grander place can be imagined for viewing the power of water erosion and glacial activity.

Old Chief Tenaya (10, 1ff.) himself seems to speak again from the start to end of your trip, from the peak above the Lake (Tenaya Peak), from the lake, and from the canyon. On being captured, Chief Tenaya was brought into camp in the Valley, where he found that his youngest son had been killed by the soldiers in an unfortunate misjudgment. His tribe broken, his way of life lost forever, he is reported to have said to Captain Boling, in part:

"Kill me, sir Captain! . . . Yes, kill me, as you killed my son; as you would kill my people if they were to come to you! You would kill all my race if you had the power. Yes, sir,

American, you can now tell your warriors to kill the old chief; you have made me sorrowful, my life dark; you have killed the child of my heart, why not kill the father? But wait a little; when I am dead I will call to my people to come to you. I will call louder than you have had me call, that they shall hear me in their sleep, and come to avenge the death of their chief and his son. Yes, sir, American, my spirit will make trouble for you and your people, as you have caused trouble to me and my people. With the wizards, I will follow the white men and make them fear me." He here aroused himself to a sublime frenzy, and completed his rhapsody by saying: "You may kill me, sir Captain, but you shall not live in peace. I will follow in your footsteps, I will not leave my home, but be with the spirits among the rocks, the waterfalls, in the rivers, and in the winds; wheresoever you go I will be with you. You will not see me, but you will fear the spirit of the old chief, and grow cold. The great spirits have spoken! I am done." (47, 172-173).

**XII. MT. DANA** (5-very strenuous all-day, climb 3000 ft., 6 miles).

Second highest prominence in the Park (elevation 13,053 ft.), Mt. Dana is named for James Dwight Dana (1813-1895), Professor of Geology at Yale University (1850-1894).

The slopes look so smooth and gentle they fairly invite an easy walk up, until you remember that the base at Tioga Pass lies over 3000 ft. below the summit, and that those smooth surfaces are broken quartzite. The sharp easterly shoulders form the Park boundary, and separate the waters which flow west to San Francisco from those that flow east to Los Angeles' aquaducts. Since the

The Lying Head  
above Tioga Pass.

—McCrary, NPS



Summit affords one of the most inspiring vistas on the eastern escarpment of the Sierra, we need to remind ourselves of Spinoza's warning and encouragement, realistically uttered, to the reader of his great book, *Ethics*, when he says, in part, "Needs must be difficult, for all things excellent are as difficult as they are rare." Mt. Dana is a parallel achievement, in its mountainous way, to the enjoyment of great poetry, the playing of great chamber music, or the analysis and creation of great philosophy. Onward and upward!

**Directions:** Drive the seven miles to the Tioga Pass Entrance Station, parking on your left just prior to reaching the station itself. As you face Mt. Dana south of the road and look up at it, you see a rugged butte cutting out at what appears to be about half-way up. This is called the Lying Head. A trail starts about 100 yards from the stone gatepost and follows along the left top side of the physical divide, contouring the first glacial moraine. Proceed along this trail until you come up under and right of the Head, when the trail moves right up the

slope. The trail is fairly well-defined from here up to the tableland about half-way up, but should you lose it, simply keep to the right of the Head and follow the natural water course up to the tableland. As you come up over the initial steep portion onto the broad, gently sloping tableland, look ahead on your left (slightly) to a good sized notch on the shoulder of the mountain. Head for the notch. It provides a good resting spot out of the wind that usually blows here - and it may be cold. After resting, there will be a fairly extended scramble over large blocks as you follow the ridge up toward the summit.

By keeping left as you ascend, you will discover a "use" trail (not built as a trail) that leads directly to the summit itself. To return, retrace your steps, or vary the trail to suit your whims, remembering to head for the spot where you first came up on to the tableland.

Take plenty of time going up. After you reach 11,500, or so, the going begins to get tough. The last 500-800 ft. will require frequent "puffing stops." Even youngsters puff, but they recover more quickly than adults. Take short frequent stops.

You will need between 4 to 5 hours for the ascent unless you have been doing extensive hiking in the area. The descent will require less than half the time.

**Special Features:** Regarding the panorama spread out in all directions, the least that can be said is to be sure to carry your topographic map of the region, there is so much to be seen on a clear day! Looking eastward, you will see Mono Lake, the old town of Bodie can be made out, the volcanic cones of Mono County, and beyond to the south, Boundary Peak in Nevada and the White Mountains in California. Northward you may be able to make out the Sweetwater Range.

Looking south, you can see Kuna, Koip, Ritter, Banner, Lyell, McClure, and Florence mountains. You can also see clearly the glaciers on Lyell and McClure. Turning more westerly you will be looking down into the multiple cirques of Kuna Crest, Mammoth Peak being the extreme north-western end of Kuna Crest. Of course, in addition, practically the whole Tuolumne region is spread before you, with the familiar Cathedral Range appearing, probably for the first time, as a unity. There is more, of course, but that will be left for your discovery.

By descending the ridge a short way on the side opposite the one you ascended, you will find several vantage points for viewing the Dana Glacier, Glacier Canyon, and the Dana Plateau beyond, lying above Lee Vining Canyon.

Do not fail to search for the blue Polemonium, or sky pilot, which grows most commonly between 12-13,000 ft. on mountain tops.

If it is cloudy, you may be treated to some special light displays made by the sun in the clouds that occur only at high elevations.

Speak to Oscar, the marmot, and his tribe that live on top of Dana. If the weather is cool, you will find only his signs.

Dana provides one of the finest vantage points for studying the evidence for the formation of the region. The glacial map in Matthes' volume (20, plate 39, p. 75) is a convenient study resource. Or one may spend the entire stay on the summit pleasantly engaged in counting and naming the many lakes visible. During one such visit, a party counted 25 different lakes, not including smaller ponds.

**On your own:** By the time you have achieved the summit of Mt. Dana and completed this series of hikes, it may be unnecessary to recommend any additional guidance for enriching your mountain experience in Tuolumne. But at the risk of appearing overzealous, let there be added one further trip, to be designed especially for you and by you. Select some mountain of your choice, register with the District Ranger, and spend the night on its summit. I recommend Mt. Conness or Mammoth Peak. Only one warning need be given: you will never be the same person thereafter!



**LIST OF HIKES, WALKS, AND CARAVANS IN TUOLUMNE MEADOWS****Distances are Round Trip****I. HALF-DAY HIKES**

Afternoon Nature and History Hike to Bennettville and environs (3 mi.)	Sunday Lakes, Nature Hike.
Afternoon Nature Walk, Tuolumne Meadows and Soda Spring (also, morning).	Morning Geology Walk, Tuolumne Meadows.
Children's Nature Walk (various) (8-10 years).	Afternoon Nature Walk, Dana Fork and foot of Mono Pass Trail.
Afternoon Geology Hike.	Morning Bird Walk (various).
Afternoon Nature Caravan and Walk to Dana Meadows.	Bird and Flower Walks (various)
Lambert Dome.	Juniper Ridge.
	Timberline Nature Walk (Dana Meadows).
	Sunset Nature Walk.

**II. ALL-DAY HIKES**

Bishop's Backbone and Eagle Point (9 mi., climb 2000 ft.)	Gibbs Mountain Shoulder and Mines (8 mi., climb 2000 ft.)
Cathedral Lake (6 mi., climb 1000 ft.)	Granite Divide (Between Mts. Dana and Gibbs) (10 mi., climb 2800 ft.)
Children's (8-10 yrs.)	Hoffman Mountain (12 mi., climb 2000 ft.)
Tuolumne's Miniature Devil's Postpile.	Johnson Peak (9 mi., climb 2400 ft.)
Cloud's Rest (14 mi., climb 1800 Ft.)	Johnson Ridge (9 mi., climb 2400 ft.)
Cockscomb Cirque (8 mi., climb 1500 ft.)	Kuna Crest (10 mi., climb 3000 ft.)
Cockscomb Tableland (8 mi., climb 2200 ft.)	Kuna Glacier (17 mi., climb 2300 ft.)
Columbia Finger 10 mi., climb 1500 ft.)	Kuna Lakes (7 mi., climb 1500 ft.)
Conness Glacier (8 mi., climb 1500 ft.)	Kuna Peak, North Spur (12 mi., climb 2800 ft.)
Conness Mountain (9 mi., climb 2400 ft.)	Lake of the Domes (6 mi., climb 1000 ft.)
Dana Glacier (8 mi., climb 1500 ft.)	Lee Vining Peak (8 mi., climb 2700 ft.)
Dana Mountain (6 mi., climb 3000 ft.)	Mammoth Peak (9 mi., climb 2700 ft.)
Dana Plateau (8 mi., climb 2000 ft.)	Mono Pass and Golden Crown Mine (10 mi., climb 1200 ft.)
Echo Peak Ridge (8 mi., climb 2600 ft.)	Mono and Parker Passes (10 mi., climb 1500 ft.)
Fairview Dome (3 mi., climb 1400 ft.)	North Cirque Cathedral Peak (6 mi., climb 1200 ft.)
Falls Ridge (9 mi.)	North Peak of Conness (10 mi., climb 2200 ft.)
Gaylor Lakes and Old Historic Mines (7 mi.)	Parker Peak (17 mi., climb 3200 ft.)
Geology and Natural History Caravan (Tioga Pass and Down Sierra Escarpment)	Polly Dome (6 mi., climb 1100 ft.)
Gibbs Mountain (6 mi., climb 3000 ft.)	Polly Lakes (6 mi.)
	Ragged Peak (10 mi., climb 800 ft.)

Slide Falls, Py-we-ack, Tenaya Canyon (7 mi., climb 1000 ft.)

Tioga Peak (6 mi., climb 2000 ft.)

Tuolumne's Miniature Devil's Postpile (5 mi.)

Tuolumne Peak (8 mi., climb 2000 ft.)

Unicorn Saddle (7 mi., climb 2100 ft.)  
Warren Mountain (12 mi., climb 2837 ft.)

Waterwheel Falls (1½ day trip)

Watkins Mountain (8 mi.)

White Mountain (8 mi., climb 2300 ft.)

### III. 2-DAY HIKES

Young Lake, Conness Basin, Ragged Peak. Backpack trip suitable for family hike.

Budd Lake, Echo Ridge, Cockscomb Cirque. Backpack trip suitable for family hike.

Mt. Lyell Glacier.

—Anderson, NP



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## ANIMALS AND PLANTS

### Some Common Mammals of the Tuolumne Region

Belding Ground Squirrel - 12, p. 67  
 Yellowbelly Marmot - 12, p. 66  
 Chickaree - 12, p. 65  
 Golden-mantled Squirrel - 12, p. 68  
 Sierra Pocket Gopher - 12, p. 71  
 Chipmunks - 12, p. 69  
 Marten - 12, p. 90  
 Pika - 12, p. 61  
 Black Bear - 12, p. 82  
 Badger - 12, p. 92  
 California Mule Deer - 12, p. 96  
 Yosemite Mountain Vole  
 (Meadow Mouse) - 12, p. 78

### Some Uncommon Mammals You May See

Northern Water Shrew - 12, p. 57  
 Whitetail Jackrabbit - 12, p. 62  
 Northern Flying Squirrel - 12, p. 70  
 Western Jumping Mouse - 12, p. 79  
 Porcupine - 12, p. 80  
 Coyote - 12, p. 81  
 Fisher - 12, p. 90  
 Wolverine - 12, p. 91  
 Mountain Lion - 12, p. 94

### Some Common Birds of the Tuolumne Region

Oregon Junco - 1, p. 137  
 Robin - 1, p. 121  
 Western Wood Pewee - 1, p. 111  
 Sparrow Hawk - 1, p. 92  
 Red-tailed Hawk - 1, p. 90  
 Cassin's Finch - 1, p. 132  
 Blue (sooty) Grouse - 1, p. 94  
 Killdeer - 1, p. 96  
 Spotted Sandpiper - 1, p. 96  
 California Gull - 1, p. 98  
 Red-shafted Flicker - 1, p. 105  
 Williamson's Sapsucker - 1, p. 107  
 Hammond's Flycatcher - 1, p. 110  
 Violet-green Swallow - 1, p. 112

Steller's Jay - 1, p. 113  
 Clark's Nutcracker - 1, p. 115  
 Mountain Chickadee - 1, p. 115  
 Brewer's Blackbird - 1, p. 130  
 Pine Siskin - 1, p. 133  
 Chipping Sparrow - 1, p. 137  
 White-crowned Sparrow - 1, p. 137

### Some Uncommon Birds You May See

Horned Lark - 1, p. 112  
 Black-backed Three-toed Wood-  
 pecker - 1, p. 109  
 White-throated Swift - 1, p. 103  
 Horned Owl - 1, p. 100  
 Golden Eagle - 1, p. 90  
 White-breasted Nuthatch - 1, p. 116  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1, p. 117  
 Dipper (Water Ouzel) - 1, p. 115  
 Hermit Thrush - 1, p. 121  
 Townsend's Solitaire - 1, p. 122  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1, p. 123  
 Western Tanager - 1, p. 131  
 Pine Grosbeak - 1, p. 133  
 Green-tailed Towhee - 1, p. 134  
 Rufous-sided Towhee - 1, p. 134

### Some Common Wildflowers of the Tuolumne Region

False Helebores - 27, p. 10  
 Wild Onion - 27, p. 14  
 Mariposa Lily - 27, p. 62  
 Rocky Mountain Iris - 19, p. 14; 27, p. 66  
 American Bistort (Knotweed) - 27, p. 96  
 Buckwheat  
 Pussy Paws - 27, p. 124  
 Columbine - 19, p. 21; 27, p. 134  
 Larkspur  
 Shield Leaf - 27, p. 180  
 Plains Erysimum (Western Wall-  
 flower) - 19, p. 14; 27, p. 176  
 Stonecrop - 27, p. 192  
 Spiraea  
 Cinquefoil



potentilla muirii (Muir Mousetails)  
 lupine - 19, p. 6  
 Hook (Dog) Violet - 27, p. 300  
 Fireweed - 19, p. 22; 27, p. 314  
 Gayophytum  
 Wild Carrot  
 Red Mountainheath (Red Heather)  
 27, p. 352  
 Cassiope - 19, p. 20; 27, p. 354  
 Shooting Stars - 27, p. 364  
 Gentian - 19, p. 22  
 Douglas Phlox - 19, p. 21; 27, p. 390  
 Ionardella (Pennyroyal) - 27, p. 436  
 Newberry Penstemon (Pride of the  
 Mountains) - 19, p. 16; 27, p. 480  
 Whorled Penstemon - 27, p. 482  
 Mimulus - 19, p. 4; 27, p. 494  
 Indian Paint Brush - 19, p. 8; 27, p.  
 472  
 Elephant Head (Pedicularis) - 19, p.  
 20; 27 p. 504  
 Easter (Fleabane) - 19, p. 21  
 Tiny Wyethia (Mule-ears)  
 Arrow  
 Senecio  
 Mountain Laurel Kalmia - 19, p. 20;  
 27, p. 350

### Some Uncommon Flowers You May See

Pine Drops - 27, p. 360  
 Snow Plant - 19, p. 16; 27, p. 358

Steer's Head Bleedingheart - 19, p.  
 22; 27, p. 120  
 Polemonium (Sky Pilot) - 27, p. 384  
 Daisy  
 Sunflower  
 Yellow Columbine  
 Pussytoes

### Trees of Tuolumne

Quaking Aspen - 2, p. 9  
 Skyland (Alpine) Willow  
 Lodgepole Pine - 3, p. 21  
 Jeffrey Pine - 3, p. 10  
 Western White Pine - 3, p. 16  
 Whitebark Pine - 3, p. 19  
 California Red Fir - 3, p. 29  
 Mountain Hemlock - 3, p. 34  
 Sierra Juniper - 3, p. 44

### Some Common Reptiles of Tuolumne

Yosemite Toad - 16, p. 10  
 Pacific Tree Frog - 16, p. 12  
 California Yellow-legged Frog - 16,  
 p. 14  
 Sierra Fence Lizard - 16, p. 21  
 Sierra Alligator Lizard - 16, p. 24  
 Mountain Garter Snake - 16, p. 39

### Some Uncommon Reptiles of Tuolumne

Mount Lyell Salamander - 16, p. 7

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**A CHECK LIST OF BIRDS OF THE TUOLUMNE REGION BY LOCATION****Mrs. Elsie Roemer (1959)\*****Tuolumne Meadows Area**

Green-winged Teal	Brown Creeper
Red-tailed Hawk	Dipper
Sparrow Hawk	Robin
Blue (sooty) Grouse	Hermit Thrush
Solitary Sandpiper	Swainson's Thrush
Killdeer	Townsend's Solitaire
California Gull	Mountain Bluebird
Long-eared Owl	Orange-crowned Warbler
Red-shafted Flicker	Yellow Warbler
Williamson's Sapsucker	Audubon's Warbler
Hairy Woodpecker	Hermit Warbler
Black-backed Three toed Woodpecker	Wilson's Warbler
Hammond's Flycatcher	Brewer's Blackbird
Dusky Flycatcher	Western Tanager
Western Flycatcher	Cassin's Finch
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Pine Grosbeak
Violet-green Swallow	Pine Siskin
Steller's Jay	Red Crossbill
Clark's Nutcracker	Oregon Junco
Mountain Chickadee	Chipping Sparrow
Red-breasted Nuthatch	White-crowned Sparrow
	Lincoln's Sparrow

**Lake Tenaya and Slopes of Tenaya Peak Area**

Blue (sooty) Grouse	Cassin's Finch
California Gull	Hammond's Flycatcher
Brown Creeper	Dusky Flycatcher
MacGillivray's Warbler	Chipping Sparrow
Orange-crowned Warbler	Western Wood Pewee
Wilson's Warbler	Yellow Warbler
Audubon's Warbler	Clark's Nutcracker
Mountain Chickadee	Pine Grosbeak
Oregon Junco	Pine Siskin
Steller's Jay	Red-tailed Hawk
Hermit Thrush	Mountain Quail
Green-tailed Towhee	Western Flycatcher
Traill's Flycatcher	Nashville Warbler
Winter Wren	Red-shafted Flicker
Red Crossbill	

**Tioga Pass, Dana Meadows and East Side Area**

airie Falcon  
llen's Hummingbird  
ed-shafted Flicker  
aill's Flycatcher  
olet-green Swallow  
ownsend's Solitaire  
ay-Crowned (Sierra Nevada)  
Rosy Finch  
ne Siskin  
reen-tailed Towhee  
regon Junco

Robin  
Mountain Chickadee  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Cassin's Finch  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Clark's Nutcracker  
Audubon's Warbler  
Orange-crowned Warbler  
Western Wood Pewee  
Chipping Sparrow  
California Gull

**Mono Lake Area**

red Grebe  
ilson's Phalarope  
orthern Phalarope

California Gull  
Allen's Hummingbird

\*Names in this list conform to the 5th Edition of the A.O.U. Check List of North American Birds (1957)

Mono Lake from the summit of Mt. Dana.

—Anderson, NPS





## NOTES

## NOTES

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Park.

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